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THE CONDOR

An Illustrated Magazine
of Western Ornithology

Published Bi-Monthly by the Cooper Ornithological Club of California.

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EDITORIAL NOTES

Again it becomes necessary to announce a change in the business management of THE CONDOR. Mr. Law finds it impossible for him to longer attend to the duties of this office, and Mr. W. Lee Chambers will henceforth take charge of our business affairs. Dues and subscriptions should therefore be remitted promptly to W. LEE CHAMBERS, SANTA MONICA, CALIFORNIA.

For preparing the 1908 Index appended to the present issue of THE CONDOR, we have to thank Mr. Henry B. Kaeding. The compilation of the yearly index is becoming more and more of an undertaking as our magazine grows. And it relieves the editorial department of a large amount of labor when someone outside assumes that part of the work and carries it to a satisfactory completion, as in the present instance.

The Birds of Washington, which Messrs. Dawson and Bowles have been working upon for the past four years is to go to press the first of the year, and finished copies are expected by May 1, 1909. This sumptuous work will be the most voluminous single publication which has yet appeared dealing solely with the birds of any part of the West. An admirable feature will be the reproductions from drawings and paintings by Allan Brooks, now conceded to be one of the foremost bird artists in the world.

The Ten-year Index is almost finished. Mr. Kaeding, who is devoting himself to this task, believes it will be ready to go to press by January 15th next. In our July number we laid the matter of financing the Ten-year Index before CONDOR readers. We have so far received just two responses to our invitation for donations to meet the cost of the publication (about \$100). These two replies were accompanied by three dollars, which leaves some \$97 still to collect! We wonder, after all, just how much the Ten-year Index is to be appreciated. One man is putting in hundreds of dollars worth of time on it, and two or three others will be donating their services in large measure before the thing is printed. To what extent is this undertaking of real importance to other Cooper Club members?

Mr. Austin Paul Smith has returned from Mexico and is now working with the birds on the U. S. side of the lower Rio Grande in the vicinity of Brownville, Texas.

Mr. H. E. Wilder, of Riverside, has been assisting Mr. H. S. Swarth in exploring the Trabuco region of southern California, in the interests of the University of California Museum.

Mr. William L. Finley of Portland, Oregon, left for New York the middle of October, and attended the annual meeting of the National Association of Audubon Societies on October 27th. He also attended the meeting of the American Ornithologists' Union at Cambridge, Mass., commencing November 16th.

Volume X of THE CONDOR consists of over 250 pages, by far the largest volume of our magazine yet issued. We believe the quality of the articles composing this volume to have never been exceeded. If our constituents approve of the efforts which have resulted as above, let them signify it by rendering their prompt and increased support to Volume XI, 1909.

MINUTES OF COOPER CLUB MEETINGS

NORTHERN DIVISION

SEPTEMBER.—The Northern Division of the Cooper Ornithological Club met in the rooms of the Oakland Chamber of Commerce on the evening of September 12, President D'Evelyn in the chair. The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved. Dr. Ella Cool Walker, 509 13th and Washington Sts., Oakland, Frank B. Rudolph, 523 10th Street, Oakland, Dr. Clarence E. Edwards, California Promotion Committee, San Francisco, and Annie M. Alexander, 1006 16th St., Oakland, were elected to active membership.

Dr. D'Evelyn read a short paper on the killing of a flock of swans by being swept over the Niagara Falls. The paper was discussed by the members present and numerous other instances of the same sort were reported.

A very interesting paper was read by Mr. Grinnell on the causes of bird migration. After the discussion on this paper the meeting adjourned.

H. W. CARRIGER, *Secretary pro tem.*

SOUTHERN DIVISION

SEPTEMBER.—The September meeting was called to order by Vice-President H. J. Lelande at his office in the City Hall, Los Angeles, Thursday evening, October 1, 1908, with members Henry B. Keading, Loye Holmes Miller, Howard Robertson, Alphonse and Antonin Jay, Otto Zahn, Pingree I. Osborn, Howard Wright and J. Eugene Law present.

The minutes of the last meeting, June 25, 1908, were read and approved. The application of Luther J. Goldman to reelection to active membership was presented by the Secretary.

A letter was read from Rudolph M. Anderson, who writes from Herschel Island, Northwest Territory, where he was on August 11, 1908, enroute to the more remote Arctic with an expedition sent by the American Museum of Natural History, New York City. He says in part: "I have had a splendid season's collecting, and made a few good photos. Among the sets taken along the line (proceeding northward from Alberta to Great Slave Lake) are Bohemian Wax-wing n-6, Pine Siskin n-3, Blackpoll Warbler n-4, White Pelican (at rookery at the Mountain Portage of Slave River) ½, ⅓, ¼, Slate-colored Junco n-4, Montana Junco n-4, Olive-backed Thrush n-3, etc."

"I sent back about one hundred skins from Ft. Norman in July, and have just packed up fifty taken the past month between Ft. McPherson and this place. The latter lot included good series of Snowflakes, Lapland Longspurs, Horned Larks, Savanna Sparrows, both adults in moulting plumage and young in juvenile plumage. Took one specimen of Wheatear or Stone-chat, July 31. Have paid especial attention to juvenal and eclipse plumages.

"An interesting capture was a nest of four young Golden Eagles, just able to fly from nest on August 4th. The nest was on the face of a steep mud cliff near the sea on the west side of Herschel Island. The huskies told me that the eagles have nested there for several years. This may perhaps be near the bird's northern breeding range.

"The Pacific whaling fleet have so far failed to put in their expected appearance and we are short of necessary supplies, principally 'grub', and have consequently been obliged to postpone our projected trip eastward to the Coppermine River country, until next summer, probably. We (Mr. Stefansson and myself) have two good 30-foot whaleboats, staunch sailing craft, have enlisted the services of several 'huskies', and expect to cruise westward along the northwest coast of Alaska, probably starting tomorrow, hoping to find a good wintering place somewhere between Flaxman Island and the mouth of the Colville River. Possibly

we may work westward as far as Point Barrow. At present we have twenty-three dogs with voracious appetites and a great problem is to keep them fed. Fortunately fishing is good. We drew in 78 fair-sized whitefish at one haul of a 30-foot gill net this morning.

"I hope to get west as far as Flaxman Island before the latter part of this month, before the caribou leave the coast. At any rate we shall have some caribou shooting, as well as Alaska mountain sheep, this fall. Both these species are found near the north coast in fair numbers. I do not know whether this letter will get out by some whaler this summer or by the Dawson Patrol next winter."

As a matter of general interest to bird students, a small group of fossil bird bones was exhibited by Mr. Miller of the State Normal School. The specimens were recently found in quaternary deposits of Southern California and represent some large species of water birds.

The distal end of the humerus was shown in comparison to that of the white pelican and a coracoid in comparison with the same bone of the brown pelican. In the former case the fossil form exceeds the recent by a goodly margin, while in the latter case the fossil was double the mass of the recent form. A fragment of the beak of another form was also exhibited which shows, seemingly, relationship with the boatbilled storks.

Mr. Miller is assembling as large a collection of skeletal material of the larger birds as possible for the identification of such fossil remains and made an appeal to Cooper Club members to help in the establishment of such a collection in the community, where it will be at the disposal of all interested in comparative osteology.

The identity of fossils of game birds in fragments or of fragments of sea birds cast on the beach, sometimes becomes a matter of importance. The body bones of the condor and of golden eagles would be exceedingly valuable material for comparison in this special case.

The specimens shown are exceedingly suggestive of the avifauna that at one time existed here. They were found in company with the remains of the saber-toothed tiger, the giant ground sloth, mastodon and the camel. If these beasts once walked the plains about Los Angeles, what might not have been flying above their heads?

Mr. Pingree I. Osborn exhibited a pair of dark-colored Socorro Petrels and a pair of Cassin Auklets, with an egg of the latter, all taken at Coronado Islands, early in the summer. A very black hawk taken near La Jolla, Cal., on Sept. 11, 1908, was shown by Mr. Roth Reynolds. This proved to be the Zone-tailed Hawk. Adjourned.

J. EUGENE LAW, *Secretary*.